BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963.

TELEPHONE: DEVIZES 24

K. J. ADAMS
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTHGATE HOUSE,
DEVIZES,
WILTSHIRE

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Devizes.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health in the Borough during the year 1963. This is the eighth year that I have served as your Medical Officer of Health.

The continued help the Department has received from Members of the Council is greatly appreciated. Several visits were paid by Members of the Health and Letting Committee to aged persons group dwellings with a view to understanding the management and design of these units, and a number of visits on site were made by Members to decide upon particularly difficult public health problems.

I wish to thank Committee Chairmen and other officials for their help during the year and to acknowledge the assistance given by the Health Visitors, Social Workers, and voluntary organisations in the more personal health difficulties which arose.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

Kenneth J. Adams

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :-

K.J. ADAMS, M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Univ.Lond.).

Public Health Inspector :-

K. WILDEY, M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I. (San. Eng.).

Rodent Operative :-

F.W. BARRETT (Part-time, being shared with Devizes Rural District Council).

Health Offices Clerks :-

MRS. E.E. NOAKES.
MRS. Y.F. STOREY.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	1,419.87
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	8,810
Number of Dwellings (including shops with dwelling accommodation)....	2,933
Rateable Value	£324,000
Estimated Product of 1d Rate	£1,250

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VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas.
(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
Devizes Borough	14.86	7.56
England and Wales	18.2	12.2
Wiltshire	20.21	11.5
Devizes Rural District	17.79	10.88

In calculating Birth and Death rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births ....,	66	57	3	5	131
Still Births	2	0	0	0	2
Deaths under 1 year	0	2	0	0	2
Deaths under 4 weeks	0	1	0	0	1
Deaths under 1 week	0	0	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths among infants of under one year of age per 1,000 registered live births. There were two deaths among infants under one year of age to 131 births in the area. This is too small a figure to calculate for comparative purposes, an accurate infantile mortality rate. The national rate is 20.9 deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Wiltshire rate is 20.75.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year :-

Measles 26
Scarlet Fever 20
Tuberculosis 2
Whooping Cough 1

The cases of scarlet fever were isolated occurrences.

More unusual now that all cattle are tuberculin tested, was the case of tuberculous glands in the neck. The source of raw milk consumed by this patient was traced and the herd investigated by the County Veterinary authorities. No satisfactory result was obtained, and as the course of the human infection is slow, it is possible that an infected beast had already been sold from the herd before the disease became clinically manifest in the patient.

It was necessary to prevent two food handlers from continuing work. One was a contact of a patient who was ill following a visit to Harlow New Town about the time of the Typhoid outbreak there. The other proved to be a staphylococcal nasal carrier and required treatment. Both persons were extremely co-operative and matters were handled informally.

Infected Milk

Over three quarters of the milk consumed in Devizes is unpasteurised. Consequently, it is vital that a close check is kept upon its cleanliness. and safety. Sampling continues regularly under the Wiltshire County Council's delegated scheme, and details are given later, but I again wish to point out to the Council the weakness of the law in controlling Brucella abortus infection of cattle.

The Department is at times in possession of serological tests which show the great likelihood that a certain milk sample is infected. Unfortunately, this matter cannot be proved for at least six weeks and even then isolation of the actual organisms is a chancy affair. Meanwhile the milk continues to be sold.

In order to increase the chance of isolating Brucella abortus, our samples are now taken to Salisbury Laboratory by car whereas formerly they went by 'bus. This enables the milk to arrive in better condition, but the six weekly interval in proving the infection is present, remains unchanged. There is also lack of proper legislation to deal with cows known to be producing infected milk.

CAUSES OF DEATH

		Male	Female
INFECTIOUS DISEASE:	Influenza	0	1
	Tuberculosis	0	0
	Other	0	0
RESPIRATORY DISEASE:	Pneumonia	3	5
	Bronchitis	1	0
HEART AND CIRCULATION:	Coronary Disease	10	15
	Cerebral haemorrhage ..	7	11
	Hypertension	0	1
	Other	5	9
CANCER:	Stomach	2	1
	Breast	0	1
	Lung and Bronchus	1	0
	Uterus	0	2
	Other	4	2
DIABETES		1	0
GASTRIC OR DUODENAL ULCER		0	0
HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE		2	0
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS		0	1
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS		1	1
ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS		1	0
SUICIDE		3	0
OTHER DEFINED AND ILL-DEFINED CAUSES		5	5
	Total	46	55

DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1962 gave this Council the necessary powers to provide meals and recreation for old people. Shortly after this Act became law the Minister of Health laid a Command Paper entitled "Health and Welfare: The Development of Community Care" before the House of Commons on 17th April, 1963. Briefly, the major authorities were asked to look at their own plans for welfare services for the next ten years because of the need for expansion.

One reason for this is the present bulge in our population at 55 years of age, so we can expect :

- More people to retire each year than ever before.
- To support a larger retired population than ever before.
- To provide for more handicapped persons than ever before.

So that the working population can care for these large numbers, we must provide modern conditions in our housing which is designed for the aged, to enable these persons to help themselves.

"Welfare Services" in Devizes are mainly provided and paid for by the County Council, but Voluntary organisations and the Borough Council play their part.

Welfare Services in Devizes include :-

1. Home Care

District Nursing, Home Helps	-	County Health Department.
Occupational Therapy, Handicap Clubs	-	County Welfare Department.
Home Visiting	-	Borough Council and County Council Officials, W.V.S., Red Cross Society and "Good Neighbours".
Meals on Wheels	-	W.V.S. provide the service with financial backing by County Council and Borough Council.

2. Residential Homes

The aged in these Homes are unable to care for themselves, but are not sufficiently ill to require hospital treatment. These homes are provided by the County Council who are at present building a Home in Devizes on land adjacent to St. James' Hospital. Provision of such welfare accommodation is confusing locally because the County Welfare Authority provide a few beds at St. James' Hospital.

3. Housing

Over the years thousands of pounds have been spent providently by Devizes people in the housing of their aged, and the trend continues. Interpreting "welfare" in its broadest sense, it is interesting to review the housing provisions for the elderly in the Town :-

Almshouses

Devizes Municipal Charities	24	(Sedgefield Gardens. (Sutton Place (St. John's Avenue.
St. Mary's Devizes Church and Poor Lands Charity	12	(St. Mary's Gardens, Victoria (Road.
Helms Memorial Trustees	4	(Almond Place, Commercial Road)
Devizes Borough Trust Committee	6	(Bricksteed Avenue. (Sedgefield Gardens.

Council Dwellings

The Council have built the following dwellings with the elderly in mind. As they are not necessarily reserved exclusively for the elderly, the figures are approximate :-

Bungalows:	4 Brickley Lane 3 Waylands 9 Hillworth Road 8 Mayenne Place
Flats(one bedroom) :	12 Sheep Street 40 Colston Road
Flats (two bedroom):	It has been the policy of the Letting Sub-Committee to reserve for the use of the elderly and infirm any of the Sheep Street two bedroom ground floor flats that become available.

Aged Persons Group Dwellings

These are a joint enterprise between the County Welfare Committee and Housing Authorities. Such a housing project caters for approximately thirty old persons in flats and bedsitter units of various sizes, the occupier being the tenant of the Housing Authority. It is agreed that such a dwelling shall be built on land adjacent to St. James's Church.

Private Bungalows

Devizes builders have constructed 154 modern bungalows since the War and a further 35 are planned. These bungalows supply an important need for those elderly persons able to buy their own property, and the presence of this type of accommodation in town is to be encouraged.

REHOUSING

	Number of applicants on Housing Waiting List.	
	31st March,1963	31st March 1964.
Single persons or married couples with no children	76	90
Applicants with one child	55	50
Applicants with two children	28	17
Applicants with three or more children	12	4
Working in Borough but living elsewhere.	26	42
Total	197	203

SLUM CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT

When Sheep Street was being redeveloped the Town could watch the day to day progress and much seemed to be happening. Not so in 1963, a year of patchy demolition in several of the prominent streets in Town, with most of the house construction work proceeding out of sight at Mayenne Place. Here twenty three-bedroomed houses were handed over to the Council by the end of that year - a further thirty-six being required from that contract - and the second phase consisting of thirty one-bedroomed flats, sixty two-bedroomed flats, and eight bungalows commenced on the 1st April. These two contracts should make tremendous inroads into the housing waiting-list.

The tender for the advance preparation of the Victoria Road extension was approved by the Minister in October. The type of housing development for this site must be dictated entirely by the requirements of the waiting-list, but a considerable road frontage will be taken up by the new County Council Old Persons Home.

Following the example of Deramore Row, I was pleased when the Council decided to bring up to date sanitary amenities in their houses at Rotherstone Gardens, Bricksteed Avenue and Caen Hill Gardens. The Minister's approval for work on the twenty-two houses in Caen Hill Gardens was received in December. It is easy to provide bathrooms where none formerly existed, but much tolerance is needed by landlord and tenant when work consisting of replacing a bath and a sink, providing a hot water backboiler, and a washhand basin, plastering and redecorating, must take place with the household in residence.

Finally, it would not be correct to leave 1963 without mentioning the scheme to convert 80 flats in Eastleigh Road into 40 semi-detached houses; a plan which necessitates the transfer of existing tenants as it can only be executed as the flats fall vacant.

The conversion of No.47 was completed at the end of the year and work on No.45 commenced. It was envisaged that a few conversions would take place each year. The resulting house is larger than average. All who suffered from the lack of sound proofing in these flats will welcome their demise.

WATER SUPPLIES

A description of the water supply is to be found in my Annual Report for 1960. No chemical analyses were made but samples taken during the year were bacteriologically satisfactory. There is ample water for the Town as long as the sources are used to supply Devizes alone.

In October 1962, the North Wilts Water Board took over the Council's functions as a Water Authority, but I feel that the Council and their Officers still have a duty to guard the public health, and have from time to time paid visits to our reservoir, and the pumps at Bourton and Shepherds Shore.

During the year it was necessary to draw the Health Committee's attention to the intermittency of the supply which broke down on three occasions, and the fencing of the reservoir. Later I approached the Water Board about the possibility of their workmen having routine blood tests for Typhoid and they asked advice concerning the sewage disposal at the Shepherds Shore house if it were modernised. At all times the Officers and Members of the North Wilts Water Board have been most helpful.

THE SWIMMING POOL

A description of the swimming pool and learners' pool was given in my Annual Reports for 1960 and 1962. All water samples continue to be satisfactory. The pool was redecorated in the Spring and fresh sand put into the filters. I gave a talk and film display on mouth to mouth artificial respiration to the Swimming Club in the Summer.

SEWERAGE

Sewage from the Town is treated at two Sewage Works. The Nursteed Area and Roundway Hospital share one and the remainder of the Town together with Roundway Park and The Barracks, drains to the Bath Road Sewage Works.

A good effluent should demand less than 20 parts per million of oxygen, the prime function of sewage treatment being to reduce oxygen demand so that fish and other water life can continue in streams.

The Roundway Hospital Works sampled on three occasions by the Avon River Board, showed a Biochemical Oxygen Demand ranging from 7.2. to 30 parts per million. The Bath Road Works gave a satisfactory effluent after irrigation, Biochemical Oxygen Demand 7 parts per million on two occasions and 16 parts per million on another. Sometimes the flow of sewage at this Works is too great for the irrigation main and it is then that bad samples are returned.

oOo

In the sections dealing with Housing, Planning, Water, Sewerage and the Public Swimming Pool, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. R.E. Paget, Borough Surveyor, and Mr. A.J. Draper, Housing Officer.

APPENDIX

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following statistics concerning vaccination and immunisation procedures in the Devizes Borough during the year :-

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS.

Year of Birth		1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954-58	1949-53
Primary Immunisations completed during 1963.	Diphtheria	58	82	6	1	2	13	3
	Whooping Cough	48	79	5	-	1	2	2
	Tetanus	57	82	6	1	2	13	3
Reinforcement injections administered during 1963.	Diphtheria	-	12	46	9	3	86	2
	Whooping Cough	-	11	30	8	3	18	1
	Tetanus	-	12	41	9	3	62	1

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.

	Months				Years			
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15
Vaccinations	2	9	6	5	9	-	4	10
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	32

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONS.

Age Group	2nd Inj.	3rd Inj.	4th Inj.	3 oral doses	3rd oral after 2 Injs.	4th oral after 2 Injs. + 1 oral dose.	4th oral after 3 Injs. or 3 oral.
Children born in 1963.	3	-	-	8	-	-	-
Children born in 1962.	24	4	1	60	-	-	-
Children born in 1961.	9	2	1	37	-	-	-
Children and young persons born in 1943-1960.	4	-	8	86	-	1	145
Young persons born 1933-1942	2	-	-	12	-	-	-
Others	-	-	1	25	-	-	-
Total	42	6	11	228	-	1	145

Progress Returns forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

		Displaced Persons.	Displaced Families.
Number of Houses DEMOLISHED:-			
In Clearance Areas			
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	7	0	0
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangements	0	0	0
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	0	0	0
Not in Clearance Areas			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	7	0	0
5. Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	0	0	0
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	0	0	0
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	0	0	0
Totals	14	0	0
Number of Unfit Houses CLOSED :-			
8. Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957	8	18	8
9. Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	0	0	0
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957.....	0	0	0
Totals	8	18	8

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.		
	By Owner	By Local Authority
11. After informal action by local authority	5	0
12. After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	0	0
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	0	0
13. Under Section 24, Housing Act 1957	0	0

UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)		
	No. of Houses.	No. of Separate Dwellings contained in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
14. Retained for temporary accommodation.		
(a) Under Section 48	0	0
(b) Under Section 17(2)	0	0
(c) Under Section 46	0	0
15. Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	0	0

PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT		
	No. of Houses.	No. of occupants of houses in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
16. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year.	0	0

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

Discretionary Grants.

The scheme for four rented dwellings reported to you last year has now been completed at a total cost of £2,391. 7s. 4d. The owners have not yet applied for the grant. They also wish to modernise the remaining six houses in this block of terraced houses but the tenants are reluctant to agree to this.

One scheme approved by the Council during the year has been completed at a total cost of £647.

Standard Grants.

No. of applications approved.	Grant up to a maximum of -	No. of Schemes completed.	Total Cost.	Amount Paid.	Total No. of amenities provided when schemes are completed.				
	£.		£.	£.	Baths	HWS	WC's.	Larders	WB.'s.
17	2,480.	7*	2,023.	920.	16	17	16	11	14

*Three of these schemes were approved last year.

DISREPAIR CERTIFICATES.

No applications for disrepair certificates were received during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

HOUSING ACT 1961 AND HOUSING (MANAGEMENT OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION) REGULATIONS, 1962.

Notices on owners to repair and provide essential facilities at three houses were served. Work has been completed on two houses (four lettings) and is proceeding at the third house (six lettings).

WATER SUPPLY

All dwelling houses in the Borough except one are supplied with water from the Town's mains. 25 houses are without an internal water supply and sink; water is obtained from standpipes outside. There are Informal or Statutory Notices served upon the owners of some of these houses to provide sinks and internal water supplies. The remainder either have Demolition Orders or Closing Orders on them or are ripe for such action.

28 water samples were submitted for bacterial purity during the year, of which all were reported as being satisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Number of food premises in the Borough is 106, excluding food traders in the open and covered markets.

Food premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 are :-

Fried Fish Shops	Meat Preparation Premises	Ice-cream Premises*	Dairies
4	9	34	4

*Premises that deal in pre-wrapped ices.

FOOD POISONING.

There was no case of food poisoning reported during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Food examined and voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers, canteens and Institutions as unfit for human consumption was :-

Tins.		Cwt.	lbs.	ozs.
28	Corned beef or pork luncheon meat		101.	10½.
11	Stewed steak		27.	12.
	Frozen Top Beef		60.	12.
8	Ham		35.	0.
51	Vegetables		42.	14½.
46	Fruit		76.	14.
1	Cream			6.
	Milk Powder	2.	0.	0.
1	Rice		1.	0.
9	Fish		2.	10¾.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

There are two pig and poultry breeders in the Borough, who collect small amounts of swill and boil it on the farm. The premises and boiling equipment were inspected every three months in both cases.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES AND MILK SAMPLING.

There are eight distributors of milk on the register, including three retail shops, two vending machines and three dairies. The dairies were inspected regularly. Thirty-one inspections were made and 248 samples of milk were submitted for cleanliness and pasteurising efficiency tests; four sets of washed bottles were submitted for examination.

Milk Samples.

Number Taken.	Examination.	Passed.	Failed.
181*	Cleanliness	135.	15.
67	Heat treatment efficiency	66.	1.
82	Presence of Tubercule baccilli	82.	-
4 sets	Cleanliness of washed bottles	4.	-

* 31 of these tests were void, owing to permissible atmospheric shade temperature being exceeded.

PEST AND INSECT CONTROL.

Your Rodent Operator has dealt with eleven complaints in respect of nine wasps' nests and nuisances caused by ants and cockroaches.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Forty-two complaints of rats and mice infestation were received which necessitated surveys of adjoining properties.

Ninety-nine treatments and 2,536 visits to dwellings, business premises, Institutions, garden-sheds, poultry-runs, pig-sties, sewage works and the Borough Refuse Tip were carried out. The Borough sewers were treated twice, covering sixty-three and seventy-two manholes on each occasion.

The cores of the infestations were found in the sewers in Gains Lane and Station Road, with light infestations in New Park Street, Repository and Northgate Street.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960	270.
Food Inspections	104.
Food and Drugs Act	35.
Hospital/School Kitchens inspections	5.
Dairies	15.
Meat Staining Regulations	1.
Disease of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957	19.
Farms	3.
Housing Inspections	103.
Housing - Re-visits	22.
Rent Act	Nil.
Improvement Grants	51.
Overcrowding Complaints	2.
Unclean Houses	9.
Caravan Sites - Control of Development Act, 1960	Nil.
Clean Air Act	1.
Shops Act	16.
Pet Shop	3.
Office Inspections	Nil.
Factory Inspections	17.
Outworkers	Nil.
Rodent Control	21.
Pest Complaints	1.
Petroleum Acts	29.
Air pressure tests applied to petroleum tanks	16.
Drains: smoke tested	9.
colour tested	17.
water tested	2.
Public Health nuisances	17.
Public Health nuisances abated	36.
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	22.
Food Poisoning (Suspected)	Nil.
Re. Infectious Disease	2.
Works in Progress	51.
Interviews with Builders/Owners/Representatives	144.
General Complaints	161.
Statutory Notices Served	Nil.
Miscellaneous Visits	245.
Visits regarding milk sampling	118.
Visits regarding water sampling	16.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	34.	11.	2.	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62.	3.	-	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	1.	2.	-	
TOTALS	97.	16.	2.	

2 - Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2.	2.	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...	2.	2.	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7).	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4.	4.	-	-	-